



Branson Briefs

A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about activities, projects and events in the City of Branson

Volume 3, Issue 10

October 2011



Branson Centennial Celebration

The City of Branson was founded on April 1, 912. The Branson Centennial Celebration comes up next spring, and a local committee has already begun to plan shows and activities to celebrate this milestone. The Centennial Logo has been released (pictured left). The focus of the opening weekend in April will be to pull the community and visitors together through several events, including a special show, community picnic and possibly a street dance. The slogan for the program of events is "Celebrating 100 years of Heritage, Harmony and Hospitality."

City, businessmen tour Highway 76

About 20 property owners along Missouri Highway 76 joined city staff and aldermen to walk a portion of the famous boulevard. The goal was to take a closer look at the 76 strip and discuss what can be done to give it a fresh appearance. Options ranged from burying power lines to street sweeping to approaching businesses with options to improve their properties. A follow-up summary will be provided to the participants as well as those property owners unable to attend the walk. Several more public meetings are planned.

New RecPlex sign

A new marquee sign with a reader board will be built in front of the Branson RecPlex on Branson Hills Parkway. The marquee display will serve two purposes: better advertise the location of the RecPlex and Skaggs Fitness Center, which is located in the facility; and display upcoming events or general information. Skaggs is sharing in the cost of the sign.

Volunteers assist parks department

Some 200 students from Branson Junior High worked with parks and recreation staff at six parks doing such jobs as placing mulch, picking up rocks and tree limbs, scrubbing picnic areas, cleaning bleachers and polishing furniture at the Community Center. Thanks to principal Brad Dollof and students for this "Day of Caring" in our parks.

Many thanks to 18 volunteers from the Branson First Baptist Church for spending a weekend re-roofing the historic Owen homestead at Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area. Also, city appreciation goes to Arrowhead Building Supply in Hollister that donated the shingles.

And park staff recently worked with College of the Ozarks students during their annual Character Camp to repaint public restrooms at the RecPlex and clear brush at Lakeside Forest..



City already preparing for Christmas

City public works crews have pulled out of storage the Christmas lights and are doing the annual maintenance checks to prepare them for installation. More than 140 lighting displays will be attached to streetlights along Branson Landing Boulevard later this month for the start of Ozark Mountain Christmas in the Branson area November 1.

More study on old high school

The team of architects evaluating the old Branson High School on 6th Street will be back this fall with more building and design professionals to assist in determining how that property can be put to good use for the neighborhood and city. Last month, three architects, hired through a grant with the American Institute of Architects (AIA), toured the property and held meetings with city officials and residents living near the school. A final recommendation will be presented to the city in December. The city purchased the 50 year old vacant school last summer from the school district for \$200,000.

City Hall
110 W. Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-3345
417-334-6095 fax
www.bransonmo.gov

Hours
8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Mayor
Raeanne Presley

Board of Aldermen
Cris Bohinc
Mike Booth
Rick Davis
Patrick Parnell
Bob Simmons
Rick Todd

City Administrator
Dean Kruithof

**Board of Aldermen
meeting schedule**
2nd & 4th Tuesday
of each month
7 p.m.
Council Chambers



**Ozark Mountain
Christmas begins
November 1**



Loretta Bishop with
Alderman Pat Parnell

City Employee of the Month

Loretta Bishop, office specialist in the Utilities Department, received the honor of being the September Employee of the Month. Loretta was recognized for her consistent display of a “we can get this done” attitude. Her positive approach to her job also helps to make it a good day for others with whom she works. She demonstrates exceptional employee and customer relation skills. She has taken the initiative to learn everything about the utilities department including sewage treatment. She displays responsible stewardship, a high standard of values and a positive image for the department and the organization. Loretta has been with the city for 22 years starting in public works and now utilities.

Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website www.bransonmo.gov.

Branson Recycle Center 601 Compton Dr

Hours

Mon- Sat 7:30 am to 1pm

Thur. 7:30 am to 6 pm

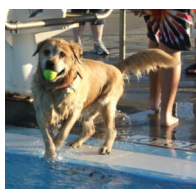


Parks director celebrates 20 years

Branson Parks and Recreation Director Cindy Shook (left in photo)) has been recognized for 20 years of service in that department. Mayor Raeanne Presley (center in photo) and City Administrator Dean Kruithof presented Cindy with a plaque and gift certificate during a reception in her honor last month. She started as manager of the Community Center and became parks and recreation director in 2001.

Firefighters set MDA record

Branson firefighters set an all-time department record over the classic car cruise weekend in August and the Labor Day weekend as they participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association Firefighters Boot Block program. Firefighters and their families raised over \$21,000. MDA serves 700 patients in southwest Missouri.



Doggies delight in diving

Canines enjoyed a night of swimming and fun at the Doggie-Dive-In. This annual event at the Branson RecPlex invited all dog owners to bring their pooches for a dip in the city's pool. Over 65 dogs came out with \$582 raised to support construction of a dog park in Branson. The aquatic center hosts this event on Labor Day right after the pool closes for “man's best friend” to take their turn.

“Mutt Strut” October 15

Registration is underway for the 1st annual “Mutt Strut,” on October 15 at 9 a.m. at the RecPlex. This event offers participants an opportunity to run or walk with their dog in a 5K or a one mile distance. Festivities also include a raffle, a doggie costume contest and professional pictures with your dog. Participants get a Mutt Strut t-shirt. Fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 day of the event. Registration forms available at the RecPlex. Proceeds go for construction of a dog park in Branson.

Free eye screening at RecPlex October 13

The Missouri Department of Social Services and the Taney County Health Department will sponsor a free eye-screening clinic on Thursday, October 13 at the Branson RecPlex on Branson Hills Parkway. Screening will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is only a screening, not an exam. If any problems are identified, people will be referred to local eye care specialists for follow-up. There are no income guidelines, but persons must call Taney County Health Department for an appointment. The number is 417-334-4544.



Branson Veterans Homecoming

November 5-11



October is Fire Prevention Month

Branson firefighters will be canvassing the community as they join firefighters from across the nation promoting this year's Fire Prevention Week. The theme is “Protect Your Family From Fire.” Fire Prevention Week runs October 9-15; however, firefighters will be presenting fire safety programs throughout the month. Did you know that cooking, heating, and electrical equipment are the three most common causes of fires in the nation?



The annual Halloween “BOOnanza” will be at the RecPlex on Saturday evening, October 29 from 5:30 to 7:30. This is a fun event for ages 12 and under and includes the trick-or-treat maze, haunted hayride, inflatables, pumpkin carving, popcorn, cotton candy and more.